

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01

SP-02 USIA-06 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

IO-13 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00

CIEP-01 CEA-01 AGRE-00 INT-05 SAM-01 /092 W

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R 131904Z SEP 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1845

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2469

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, EEC

SUBJECT: EC COMMODITIES WORKING GROUP-AGREEMENT ON US PROPOSAL
FOR SPECIAL CONSUMER CONSULTATIONS ON COPPER

REF: (A) STATE 219328, (B) EC BRUSSELS 8705 (NOTAL)

1. AN EC COMMISSION OFFICIAL TELLS US THAT THE EC COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON COMMODITIES AGREED ON SEPTEMBER 10 TO THE US PROPOSAL (REF A) TO HOLD COPPER CONSULTATIONS AMONG OECD COUNTRIES DURING THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP (HLG) ON COMMODITIES. THE NINE AND THE COMMISSION ARE ALSO IN FAVOR OF EXTENDING THE HLG MEETING A HALF DAY ON SEPTEMBER 23 SO THAT THERE WILL BE SUFFICIENT TIME FOR THESE CONSULTATIONS. ALL OF THE NINE, EXCEPT LUXEMBOURG, AND THE COMMISSION PLAN TO SEND EXPERTS TO THIS FINAL SESSION. THE EC WORKING GROUP IS CONSIDERING POSSIBLY HOLDING ANOTHER MEETING

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PRIOR TO THE HLG OR, IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE,

IT PLANS TO MEET SHORTLY AFTER THE HLG.

2. THE EC HAS JUST RECEIVED THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT PREPARATORY PAPER FOR THE FORTH-COMING COPPER CONSULTATIONS. THE WORKING GROUP WAS NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS IL. IT ASKED THE COMMISSION TO PREPARE AN ANALYSIS OF THE PAPER. THIS WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT MEETING.

3. COMMISSION OFFICIALS ADD THAT THE WORKING GROUP REACHED A CONSENSUS ON THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES FOR THE UNCTAD COPPER DISCUSSIONS. THE LEGOUX GROUP SHOULD BE RECONVENED BUT POSSIBLY IN A MODIFIED FORM. THE EC GROUP IS PREPARED TO TAKE A FLEXIBLE POSITION TOWARD THE FUTURE STRUCTURE OF THE LEGOUX GROUP. IT ALSO AGREED THAT THE STUDIES PROPOSED IN MARCH BY THE LEGOUX GROUP SHOULD BE COMPLETED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. (NOTE: THE COMMISSION SUBMITTED PROPOSALS TO THE EC GROUP CONCERNING OTHER PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OF THE UNCTAD COPPER DISCUSSIONS. THE GROUP REPORTEDLY AGREED TO MOST OF THESE PROPOSALS. THE MISSION WILL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THIS PAPER.)

4. COMMISSION OFFICIALS REPORT THE UK SUGGESTED TO THE EC GROUP THAT A PERMANENT CONSULTATION GROUP ON COPPER SHOULD NOW BE ESTABLISHED. COMMISSION PARTICIPANTS OPPOSED THIS SUGGESTION ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY IN THE CONSULTATION PROCESS TO SET UP A PERMANENT GROUP. INSTEAD, SUCH A DECISION MIGHT BE TAKEN AT THE END OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS. IN ADDITION, COMMISSION PARTICIPANTS ARGUED THAT SUCH A PROPOSAL WOULD CAUSE THE UNCTAD TO GET BOGGED DOWN ON PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS SUCH AS THE POSSIBLE LOCATION, FORM AND FINANCING OF A PERMANENT CONSULTATIVE GROUP. ACCORDING TO COMMISSION SOURCES, THE MAJORITY OF MEMBER STATE PARTICIPANTS AGREED TO CONTINUE WITH THE CURRENT UNCTAD AD HOC STUDY GROUP. HINTON

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